

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

For a democracy to function, the country must have an informed electorate. When the majority of network viewers believed Saddam Hussein was behind the 9/11 attacks, it is clear that the broadcast media is not playing a constructive role in building an informed electorate. We MUST take steps to rectify this problem.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

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